



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Matt Lehman**

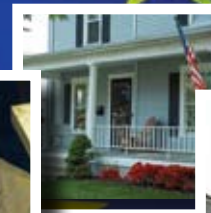
200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

## 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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# 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE MATT LEHMAN  
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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

What important issues are facing our community today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail me your thoughts to [h79@iga.in.gov](mailto:h79@iga.in.gov), post your comments on my Web site at [www.in.gov/h79](http://www.in.gov/h79), or return this card with your comments below.

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## Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

*Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, House Republican principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:*

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with House and Senate Republicans, outlined those standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. In addition, the "education trigger" would allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

*Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:*

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at rapidly growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University Southeast, Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
- The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



*Rep. Lehman and Rep. Ed Soliday discuss legislation.*



*Rep. Lehman immediately after being sworn in as a member of the House.*

### Use of credit information by insurance companies

Consumers can now get better insurance rates under a House bill I co-authored. The new law allows consumers to request a recalculation of their insurance score and eliminates mandatory periodic recalculation. The bill also limits the use of credit ratings in setting insurance rates and prohibits the use of late medical payments as a negative factor in insurance rating. Insurance companies now can insure more people and maintain their competitiveness.

### Tuition exemption for Purple Heart recipients

This legislation honors Hoosier heroes who have sacrificed so much for us. Senate Enrolled Act 39 grants all Hoosier Purple Heart recipients free tuition to state colleges and universities. Previous law provided tuition to those who received the Purple Heart after Sept. 10, 2001, and the children of all Purple Heart recipients.

### Improving student discipline

School corporations must now develop an evidence-based plan for improving behavior and discipline in school. Discipline is critical to establishing a learning environment that allows students to be successful.

### Identity theft

Hoosiers now have more identity theft protection through the state's Identity Theft Unit, which will investigate complaints and assist victims. Identity theft was the top consumer complaint to the Federal Trade Commission in 2008.



**Matt Lehman**

State Representative • House District 79

Important Contact  
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